

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce headed by Shri I.K. Gujral and the Commission on Review of Administrative Laws have proposed that the work relating to the development of cardamom be entrusted to the Ministry of Agriculture. The recommendation are under consideration.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Cardamom growers have represented against the proposal and have requested that work relating to development of cardamom should remain with the Spices Board. The Government are considering this aspect also.

FDI in Plantation Companies

*14. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow seventy-four per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in plantation companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, particularly when plantation is not a priority sector; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken to safeguard the interests of workers of tea and coffee plantation and processing companies which are highly labour-intensive?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Impact of Import Quota Removals

*15. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a study of the impact quota removals by April, 2001 on various segments of the economy;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(c) what measures are being taken to ensure that India's farmers and